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Patent

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 16-21 as follows:

A very common requirement for companies who use these database systems is to be able access the data in multiple, geographically separate locations, as depicted in Fig. 2. Version-managed databases 1a-1d may be connected through a variety of networks 5. This requires a system of replication, where the database is replicated in multiple locations. In such a system, data synchronization management between the databases becomes critical to ensure reliable data at every location.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 20 through page 6, line 9 as follows:

Thus, each of the databases in a replicated database network may include a synchronization manager, thereby allowing each database to autonomously and/or asynchronously exchange changes and/or reconstruct changes independent of other databases in the system. Another advantage of the synchronization manager is that it may monitor activities of the local database with which it is associated and selectively perform one or more of its activities when it most efficient to do so. For example, the synchronization manager may send and/or receive changes when the interface of the local database is available, e.g., not being used for other tasks. In addition or alternatively, the synchronization manager may reconstruct changes, e.g., to synchronize the local database with other databases, when the local database has resources, e.g., processor or memory capacity, available or at times that substantially minimize interference with operation of the local database. Thus, the synchronization manager may

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operate substantially undetected by users of the local database, while still maintaining the local database substantially synchronized with other databases in the network.

Please amend the first paragraph at page 7, lines 9-16 as follows:

Turning now to the drawings, Fig. 3 shows a preferred embodiment of a system 7 that includes a plurality of replicated version-managed databases 10a-10d, in accordance with the present invention. Generally, each database 10 may include a synchronization manager (SM) 15 and, optionally, a sequence table 20. In addition, each database 10 may include a plurality of states and versions, each with its own identification label, ID. Each database 10 may include other subsystems or components not important to the operation of the present invention.

Although four databases 10 are shown, a system in accordance with the present invention may include any number of databases, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.